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Calvin Howell

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From: Shahla Werner [shahlawerner@yahoo.com]Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2004 10:01 PM**To:** arlen_specter@specter.senate.gov; Michael Powell; Kathleen Abernathy; Michael Copps;
KJMWEB; Jonathan Adelstein**Subject:** Please Support Low Power FM

Hello:

I am writing as a former employee of a vibrant, diverse community radio station (WORT 89.9 FM, Madison, WI) to urge you to support the expansion of low power FM radio (FCC Docket 99-25, and S. 2505). The station I worked for was treasured by the community, who depended on WORT as a source of local voices, national and international news, eclectic music, and more- they symbolized the soul of our community. I now live in a community that lacks local community radio, and I have seen first-hand how much harder it is to acquire in-depth news in our area. Recently, a local commentator, Bob Durgin, made an anti-homosexual comment on Clear Channel talk radio station WHP 580. Because we have no local community radio, members of the Harrisburg community who are offended by his bigoted comments have little power to respond to attacks like these.

Sadly, the situation I am in now is more the rule than the exception. In the current American media climate, far too few independent and local voices are allowed to compete with the consolidated, corporate media. This has led to homogenization for the sake of the bottom line. Fewer songs and fewer artists make it to the radio dial, leaving music lovers without access to some of the most creative artists. Recently, a formerly popular music fest, Lollapalooza, was canceled due to low ticket sales. I suspect that this was partly due to the fact that some of the talented acts on this year's bill are not making it to the airwaves. In-depth local news has been replaced by sound bites and advertisements. Political discussion has been narrowed so that many viewpoints are no longer represented, and hard-hitting investigative journalism is almost nonexistent within the conglomerated mainstream airwaves.

A recent MITRE corporation engineering study confirms that Low Power FM radio does not cause interference with existing broadcasts when it exists on the third adjacent channel to those broadcasts. This was the only reason previously given for prohibiting LPFM in the past. The MITRE corporation even goes so far as to recommend that LPFM be instituted on that third-adjacent frequency.

The American public understands that media diversity is vital to a healthy democracy. This is evidenced by

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the more than 700,000 citizens who have contacted the FCC and their elected representatives on this issue -- clamoring for local, diverse voices instead relaxing rules so major corporations can encroach on their local media -- we believe that an expanded Low Power FM will provide a needed alternative for citizens around the country, of every political persuasion. I hope you will take my comments to heart and work to support the expansion of Low Power FM community radio.

Regards,
Shahla M. Werner
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